

Final Project: Major Project Paper (50%)

The Final Project is a mandatory course component. The Final Project has two parts: a first draft (15%, due in Unit 3) and the final submission of publishable quality (35%, due at the end of the course).

The purpose of the Final Project is to critically examine contemporary issues related to specific aspects of technology-enhanced learning and digital learning environments. As part of this examination you will read and interpret research literature to situate issues in the context of current discourses and analyze a selection of issues in technology-enhanced and digital learning environments in relation to a specific selected problem setting.

You will develop parts of your Final Project throughout this course to help you develop your ideas. You should draw upon elements of the Assignment 1 ePortfolio blog, and incorporate feedback received on your early draft.

The blogging process was the primary tool to develop and share your ideas with others, as well as to give and receive feedback that could assist you with improving your ideas. These blogs helped to develop the raw material and refine it over time for your Final Project draft and then final submission. To review, the process worked as follows:

1. **Blog post 1:** The purpose of this blog post is to describe your own context and the background setting for your paper. Also you put forward an initial theme and research question for your paper.
2. **Blog post 2:** In this post you further develop your topic and connect it to at least two other topics among the course themes. You also share a minimum of three published academic articles you plan to incorporate as part of your literature-based research for your paper.
3. **Blog post 3:** Here you started assembling the elements of a rough first draft of a paper. During this process you were asked to complete a draft abstract, introduction, background, literature review, discussion, conclusions, and near-final references. You submitted this draft and then obtained feedback from the instructor to consider in preparing your final paper for submission.
4. **Final Project Draft:** You will prepare a rough outline and draft of your paper to submit in Unit 3. The outline should include the main headings and sub headings, with early draft content perhaps in bullet points and brief descriptions of each section where there are still gaps, along with your annotated bibliography. You will receive feedback from your Open Learning Faculty Member. This contributes 15% to your course grade.

5. **Final Project:** This is due on the last day of the course. The paper should include:

Abstract – a brief summary of your paper and findings

Introduction – an overview of what you are covering in the paper, as well as why your topic is of interest

Background – where you set the context of your research

Literature review – a discussion of literature related to your topic

Discussion – where you expand on your topic and describe what you have learned about it

Conclusions – a wrap-up, with any key items learned restated along with future areas of potential research

References

Length: The final paper should be between 1,700 and 2,000 words in length and follow APA format.

Grading Rubric (Draft and Final)

	Excellent	Proficient	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Citations and APA Format (2.5 marks)	All citations and APA format are correct.	Most citations and APA formatting are correct.	Some citations and APA formatting are correct.	Few citations and APA formatting are correct.
Style, Grammar, Spelling (2.5 marks)	All aspects of grammar and spelling are correct and appropriate for academic writing.	Most aspects of grammar and spelling are correct for academic writing.	Some aspects of grammar and spelling are correct.	Significant spelling and grammar errors interfere with understanding.
Identifies Important Terms and Concepts and Includes Critical Issues and Perspectives (5 marks)	Relevant terms and concepts are clearly identified, defined and integrated in a critical context.	Relevant terms and concepts are clearly identified and defined.	Relevant terms and concepts are somewhat identified and defined.	Relevant terms and concepts are not identified or defined.

	Excellent	Proficient	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Critical Issues (10 marks)	Includes well-described critical issues related to the technology and learning event or learning theories; use of and assumptions about technology; design approach, assumptions, and critique; and historical linkages and future implications of the chosen technology and learning event.	Critical issues not always well-developed or described: some aspects missing; and/or some not clearly explained or represented.	Some critical issues present but lack depth of critical analysis.	Important gaps; and/or poorly developed critical issues.